Garden Reach area of Calcutta which would be able to feed most of our ports with small vessels.

Thank you very much, and I support this Bill.

Some HON MEMBERS : What is the Ministry's reaction ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Of course. I will consider it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : I shall now put the motion to vote.

The question is :

"That the Bill to amend the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 & 3 *were added to the Bill.*

Clause 1, *the Enacting Formula, and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, I beg to move :

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : Now, there is a statement by the Agriculture Minister.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, let the clarifications be tomorrow.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : Sir, it is a very important matter. We should discuss it today. We are the affected people.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : Mr. Minister, please proceed. .... (*Interuptions*) .... Mr. Gautam, please. The Minister is on his legs.

Yes, Mr. Minister.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation Arising out of recent cyclonic storm and floods Particularly in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry and the relief and rehabilitation Measures taken by the Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the situation arising out of recent cyclonic storn and floods, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry and the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Government.

2. As the Members are all aware, the east and west coasts of India are highly prone to tropical cyclones arising in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. On an average, about 5—6 tropical cyclones form in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea every year, out of which 2—3 become severe.

3. A cyclonic storm developed over the Bay of Bengal on 2nd December, 1993 intensified into a servere cyclonic storm on the next day. This, with a core of hurricane winds crossed the Tamil Nadu coast around 11.00 hrs. on 4th December, 1993 near Karaikal in Pondicherry. Under its influence, coastal areas of Tamil Nadu experienced heavy rains, strong winds and high seas. The monsoon which accompanies the cyclonic storm caused heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry also. The intense rainfall accompanied by high velocity winds resulted in flash floods, floods in the rivers and plains and sea erosion in the affected areas.

4. In fact, immediately before this, during the first week of November, 1993, there was a trough of low pressure that formed and extended itself from the Gulf of Mannar to the Southern Bay off Tamil Nadu coast from 4 to 9th November, 1993. It brought in an unusually heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala causing substantial damage in many inlad districts of the State. It caused landslides also in some parts of Tamil Nadu.

5. In Tamil Nadu, the coastal districts bore the immediate on-slaught of the cyclonic storm and heavy rains in December, 1993 resulting in loss of 111 lives and damage to over 1.6 lakh huts. Paddy crop close to harvest has been extensively damaged. The Government of Tamil Nadu undertook timely relief measure in the affected areas including evacuation of people from inundated areas to safe shelters, ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of the deceased and injured, compensation for damaged houses and issue of essential commodities free of cost to those rendered homeless. The State Government has already distributed Rs. 23.80 lakhs as gratuitous relief and has also announced cash close of Rs. 500|- each for all the huts damaged in cyclone and heavy rains of November & December, 1993.

6. Because of precautionary measures taken by the Pondicherry Administration like evacuation of people to safer places, no loss of human life has occurred. However, damage to public and private properties could not be prevented. In Pondicherry, particularly Karaikal, large areas of standing crops were damaged. Fishing crafts etc. were washed away ; buildings, roads, bridges, and irrigation channels were damaged ; telephone and electric poles were-up-rooted, huts in large numbers collapsed; low lying areas were inundated, coastal areas were eroded by tidal waves and communication was disrupted at many places. Preliminarly assessment of the Pondicherry Administration indicate a damage of the order of Rs. 40.56 crores in various sectors. The Administration provided temporary shelters to the evacuees and more than 4000 families in the effected region were distributed free ration. Inorder to save the standing paddy crop from submergence, the Administration reinforced all the weak-points along the river banks and breaches were plugged.

7. As the hon'ble Members are aware, under the present arrangement, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) is optioned by the State Governments for meeting expenditure on relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. 75 percent of CRF is contributed by the Government of India and balance 25 per cent by the State Governments. Tamil Nadu has an allocated CRF of Rs. 19.00 crores. In the wake of Tamil Nadu cyclone in November, 1992, two quarterly instalments of the Central share of CRF for the current year, amounting to Rs. 14.625 crores were released in advance last year. Further, the third and fourth instalments of CRF for the current year were also released in advance in April, 1993. Thus, the entire share of CRF for this year stands released.

8. As desired by the Prime Minister, I undertook an aerial survey of the entire affected area and also visited some parts of the State which suffered extensive damage on December 9, 1993. I also held discussions with the Chief Ministers and Officials of the State Government and U.T. Administration. Both the Government of Tamil Nadu and Administration of Pondicherry swiftly responded in arranging for rescue and relief operations. On return, I have recommended advance release of Rs. 14.625 crores to the Government of Tamil Nadu from the Central Share of CRF due for the next year to augment their resources. Since the Union Territories have no provision of CRF, it is Government of India which usually provides necessary assistance to U.T. Administration to meet such expenditure. For the present, I have recommended release of Rs. 2.00 crores to the Government of Pondicherry for this purpose.

9. During the course of the visit, the Governmet of Tamil Nadu and Podicherry presented memoranda detailing the damage caused and requirements of fund for meeting the expenditure on relief and rehabilitation. The Central Team which accompanied me is looking into the memoranda.

10. Hon'ble Members will kindly recall that in the wake of cyclone and floods in the Southern States in November 1992, Prime Minister had visited the affected areas and held discussions with the Chief Minister on the rehabilitatiton measures required to be undertaken. On the direction of the Prime Minister, the coastal States had formulated a comprehensive Cyclone Emergency Project for reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure on the lines of the Cyclone Emergency Reconstruction Project being implemented in Andhra Pradesh. This project was presented to the World Bank. The Bank has expressed some reservations about this project but are prepared to consider some of its components within the on-going Agriculture Development Project and/or another project on Water Resource Consolidation which is under preparation. We are in touch with the State Government for further action to be taken in the matter in the light of the observations of the World Bank. Government of India has also, as a very special case, approved a scheme for reconstruction of houses damaged during the 1992 cyclone with 40 per cent HUDCO loan assistance and Central and State subsidy of 30 percent each. The schemes submitted for assistance are under consideration of HUDCO.

11. Sir, I may assure the House that Centre fully sympathises with the hardship and sufferings caused to the persons affected by the recent cyclone in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry and would render whatever assistance possible in undertaking suitable rehabilitation programme.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. This statement made by the hon. Minister today has given us an opportunity to seek clarifications on this matter.

The hon. Minister has vividly explained the colossal damage which has been caused to the standing crops, huts, telecommunication and power lines, resulting in the total cutting off of the area from the rest of the country. Immediately on receiving the information on 4th December, on 5th December, I visited the Karaikal region of Pondicherry. It could not be reached because of heavy floods in the area between Pondicherry and Karaikal. Then, I reached the place via Trichy and Nagapattinam. The cyclone which was actually passing through Karaikal on the 4th morning caused heavy damage to the standing crops, trees and power lines. The telecommunication system was paralysed. There were breaches on the roads. It was a pathetic scene.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, kindly see the presence on this side. Not many Members are there on that side.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu) : This is a serious matter, Mr. Gautam.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Mr. Gautam, kindly do not interrupt.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM : Your party members are not there.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : We will take care of our party and our Members. Don't worry.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is a serious matter. All of us are very much concerned about it. Why don't we postpone the clarifications ?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : The concerned people are here. My State was affected.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO : Others are also concerned about it. Why should we not take up the clarifications tomorrow ?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : The supplementary list of business was given in the morning. Those who are interested would seek clarifications.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Notice was given in the morning.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : Mr. Narayanasamy, you please continue.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : We are very anxious to seek clarifications.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : You come to your point, Mr. Narayanasamy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Sir, Mr. Balram Jakhar visited the area. Now, the hon. Minister, Mr. Arvind Netam, is going to reply. Therefore, I would like to explain to him in detail what I saw there. The huts in the villages where the people were living were completely damaged. They had to be evacuated and given shelter in schools for sometime. The Administration immediately provided food as well as medical facilities. Not only that. Each person was given Rs. 500 for reconstruction of his hut. The Prime Minister was kind enough to sanction Rs. 1 crore immediately from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. This amount was used for the purpose of rehabilitation of the people who were affected. The hon. Minister has mentioned that 40,000 people have been affected. Sir, more than 60,000 people have been rendered homeless. This was the position.

I went through Nagapattinam which is in Tamil Nadu. There also the situation was same. The coastal area was a picture of devastation. Anybody who had been there would have seen the extent to which the people were affected by this natural calamity. This was the situation. What I am trying to say is that in spite of the visit by Mr. Balram Jakhar, the relief given to us is very meagre. It is only Rs. 2 crores. The initial assessment of the damage caused was Rs. 40.56 crores. The agriculturists have to restart their agricultural operations because the crops have been completely submerged in water. The final assessment submitted by the Pondicherry Administration is more than Rs. 60 crores.

The hon. Minister has not referred to it in his statement at all. What was the total damage that has been assessed by the Agriculture Minister when he visited the area, had an aerial survey and held discussions with the officials of the Pondicherry Union Territory ? Secondly, the day before yesterday there was another cyclone which brought more than 6.8 cms. rain, by which the entire area has once again been affected. There is no reference to this rain which was there on Sunday by the hon. Minister in his statement. The statement should be comprehensive. He should give the sequence of events. Our State Government has intimated the Central Government and the Agriculture Ministry about this rain of Sunday but that has not been referred to. Once again the crops have been damaged. Once again there are impediments for our agriculturists. For one week the entire area was cut off from the rest of the country. The hon. Minister has mentioned about the visit of the Central team, but when is the Central team to visit ? The Central team should not visit after 15 days, 20 days. How can they assess the damage ? They may asses the damage to the crops, but what about the damage to the huts which the people would like to reconstruct then and there ? How will they assess the damage to the houses which have been reconstructed immediately ? The hon. Minister has said that the Central team accompanied him and they are assessing the damage. Has the Central team submitted its report ? What is the quantum of damage assessed by them ?

I will now come to the third question. Our Union Territory has got a peculiar standard and that is why I demanded more powers for the Union Territory in the House yesterday. All the States are covered under the Calamity Relief Fund as recommended by the Ninth Finance Commission, but the Union Territories have been left out. When we ask the Agriculture Ministry, they tell us to approach the Home Ministry, which is the nodal Ministry, and when we approach the Home Ministry, they say, it is the Agriculture Ministry which has to give funds. Now we are in a *Trishanku Swargam*. Neither we are cared for by the Home Ministry nor by the Agriculture Ministry. We do not know which Ministry has to give the relief fund.

This amount of Rs. 2 crores which has been given is peanuts, which will not be able to rehabilitate the affected people and also help the agriculturists who have lost their crops. This is the harvesting season. Ours is a tailend of the Chuveri Basin. Whatever water comes from the Western side, has to go through our area; ours is a low lying-area. Therefore, we are the losers. Farmers have to be given assistance for raising their crop. They have to restart cultivation. All their crops have been damaged. Therefore, I would like to know what more assistance you are going to give in addition to this amount of Rs. 2 crores. Pesticides are to be provided, fertilizers have to be given to the small and marginal farmers. The area surrounding Pondicherry is a rice bowel. It is providing food for the entire Pondicherry State. since we are not covered by the Calamity Relief Fund, what more fund are you going to give so that we are able to rehabilitate our affected people and help our agriculturists to start their cultivation ?

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO : I am sorry, Sir, I could not get all the details. But it is unfortunate that the coastal area is repeatedly subjected to all these calamities. Tamil Nadu, including Pondicherry, is facing this distress, and immediate help is to be rendered to them. It is good that the Prime Minister and the teams visited the areas earlier but, as Mr. Narayanasamy himself has said, the relief given is not adequate at all. Generally what happens under these circumstances is, to identify the calamity and assess the damage caused by the calamity is one thing. To grant relief it takes time, and for the relief to be practically distribtued among the distressed it takes a lot of time. It also involves corruption. The longer the time, the greater would be the corruption. So these things would be happening again.

I must say that the Government must move more quickly and render all help because in Tamil Nadu the Government belongs to a different party. So, keeping that also in view and irrespective of whatever Government is there, help from the Centre should go there immediately and the people must feel that there is no discrimination and that they have been rendered all the help from the Centre.

Thank you.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri V. Narayanasamy) in the chair]

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise some important issues regarding the cyclone as well as the floods that affected the whole of Tamil Nadu.

Sir, as far as this statement is concerned, I think it is not at all a comprehensive one. It is not only not comprehensive, I can say, it is even misleading. In paragraph 4 they say, "It brought in an unusually heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala causing substantial damage in many inland districts of the States." The idea of the statement is to find out what the damage is. For knowing that "substantial damage" has been caused is such a statement necessary at all ? I feel it is totally inappropriate.

Again, in para 5 they have said, "In Tamil Nadu, the coastal districts bore the immediate onslaught of the cyclonic storm and heavy rains in December, 1993 resulting in loss of 111 lives and damage to over 1.61 lakh huts." In this connection I want to make it very clear that even the Government of Tamil Nadu itself has not assessed it properly. Even according to the statement given by the State Government, 238 lives have been lost and more than 2.62 lakh huts have been damaged or have collapsed. On what grounds have you put the figure at 1.61 lakh huts ? I don't understand this. If one lakh huts have been left out in the statement, I can say that it is a very condemnable thing. They also say that the State Government has announced a cash role of Rs. 500 each for all the huts damaged in the cyclone and heavy rains of November and December 1993. How much does it come to ?

.... (*Interruptions*) ....

Then, Sir, they say that they are now allotting Rs. 14.625 crores for Tamil Nadu. For Pondicherry they are allotting only Rs. 2 crores out of the Rs. 40 crores they had asked for. For Pondicherry's next Annual Plan they have allotted Rs. 135 crores. Last year it was Rs. 108 crores. So there is an increase of only Rs. 27 crores there. Here, they say that they are giving them only Rs. 2 crores though they had asked for Rs. 40 crores. What can the Chief Minister of Pondicherry do with that petty amount ? I am unable to understand the statement.

I want to give a clear picture now. The hon. Minister would please bear with us because we have to say something. To the best of my knowledge, in Tamil Nadu, even last year the damage was to the tune of Rs. 540 crores. Out of that, the Central Government has allotted Rs. 14.65 crores from the Natural Calamity Fund, and Rs. 50 crores is advance for 1993-94. The damage inflicted by the cyclone in the Thanjavoor District alone, according to an estimate by a committee of experts constituted by the DMK, which went through the four or five districts affected by it, is that Rs. 676 crores worth of goods have been completely damaged, but the Government of Tamil Nadu has actually estimated only Rs. 666 crores for the whole of Tamil Nadu. This clearly shows that the Government has not at all assessed it properly. The district officials and even the village officials have not at all gone there to find out the damage, what has happened. The Minister has assured that immediately after this survey was over, he would release Rs. 29.25 crores. Shri Balram Jakhar assured this to the press, but from the statement I find it to be only Rs. 14.625 crores. Totally it comes to more than Rs. 1,000 crores. I want to make it very clear to the Minister that the damage caused due to the cyclone and storm is more han Rs. 1,000 crores. You are going to give Rs. 14.625 crores only. What have we to do ? Have we to give ten paise to each affected person ? Nothing more than that, Sir.

The Minister should know what has heppened. After the cyclone was over, I tell you, first, no proper assessment was done. Secondly, the people have suffered like anything even for rice, cloth, kerosene and drinking water which are the basic needs.

Sir, the power supply was totally cut off. It has not been restored. The telecommunication was cut off. No work on this has been commenced so far. It is a very pitiable situation. In the cyclone-affected area free packet meals used to be given to the people. They have accounted for free packet meals, but they have not been issued. Dr. Kalaignar had received a letter from one, Mr. Husain Khan, from Kattumannnar Kovil. He clearly says that he himself went and approached the officials and told them, "The bank of the river is giving way. Please come and help us." They said, "Tomorrow we will see." Actually the bank was breached, and water rushed through the villages. They suffered like anything. He mentioned that even after 18 hours they did not go there to give any help, to repair the houses which collapsed and to repair the roads that got damaged due to the cyclone.

Sir, I tell you that Rs. 100 crores worth of teakwood trees had fallen. It is a very sorry state of affairs and it is shameful to say that all the teak-wood trees which had fallen and got uprooted, have been taken away by the ruling party people. It is most unfortunate, Sir.

Next, I will tell you to what extent they have been affected.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh) : The ruling party at the Centre or in the State ?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : The State, Sir. I am not accusing the ruling party at the Centre. I am accusing the State Government clearly.

Dr. Kalaignar has said that in Madurai 4,000 persons have submitted memoranda and petitions seeking his help, to intervene in the matter and to get relief. These 4,000 memoranda and petitions have been given to the District Secretary of the Madurai City District DMK to submit them to the Collector.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Seek clarifications.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : I will tell you what has happened. On this statement only I am speaking so much. I never used to speak so much. Probably one or two points I used to make.

Then I want to mention one point to the Government. On 9-12-93 in one place called "Kuvalaikkal" near Thiruvaroor the public came to the street for *rasta-roko* agitation, road-block agitation because no officer had gone to the village. They themselves came to the street to fight against the Government. This is the thing. Whatever information they have provided to the Central Government, is totally untrue. Don't believe the statement submitted by the State Government. If you believe it, I feel you will do some sort of disservice to the people. The agitation will be turned against the Central Government. Please just appoint another experts committee and find out what has really happened there. Then only you can find out the truth about what programmes you have to implement. Then only you can come to a conclusion, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Now you have to conclude, please.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : I humbly request you, Sir, to bear with me.

In the Nilgiri Hills, near Coonoor, three hair-pin bends we were unable to find because all have become mud and stone. About the sea erosion at Ennore nothing has been mentioned in the Statement. About the landslides from the hills nothing has been mentioned in the Statement. What type of statement has the Minister made ? We have to spend crores and crores of rupees to make available the transport facilities in the areas where landslides have taken place.

More than seven lakh agricultural families have been affected. Properties of the weavers to the tune of Rs. 100 crores have been lost. They want looms free, they want bank yarn free. They have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister. You please go through that. More than three lakh houses have been completely damaged of have collapsed Fisherman have lost their boats, catamarans and fishing nets. What about the fishermen's community ? Nothing has been mentioned about them.

I would submit that one monitoring committee of all parties should be constituted there to find how the work is being done; the amount they are reported to have spent, they are going to spend, whether it is reaching the hands of the needy. We must find that out.

The people who have cultivated paddy, banana, sugarcane, cashewnut, beetle leaves, groundnut have been very badly affected. I would also say that some agency should come forward to purchase the groundnuts

to save them from ruination. Seeds, fertilisers and pesticides should be given as one hundred per cent grants.

At the time of giving loans, some amount was being deducted from those who had insured their crops. How much crop insurance loans they have taken and how much was deducted from that, we must find out. The people who have to be given the crop insurance amount, it should be found out whether they have benefited from the scheme or not.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Kindly conclude. You have taken more than ten minutes.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Sir, you are very generous today. I hope you will continue to be generous and give me some more time.

The Karaikal area has been also completely affected. Rs. 40 crores is not enough.

The Minister has said something about what has been given to help the people there. But, Sir, the Chief Minister came to the capital, spoke with the Prime Minister and went back. Sir, we go through the press reports, but here I would like to elicit some information from the Minister. They have said that they have come only to ask for some more amount for the calamity relief. But the real thing is that the confrontation between the Tamil Nadu Government and the Centre was top on the list of the Chief Minister, Ms. Jayalalitha in her discussions with the Prime Minister in Delhi during her two-day visit. The last paragraph I would like to quote.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Mr. Virumbi, we are now on the flood situation. You need not quote all these things. I will not allow it.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : We hope that she had come here to talk about the calamities, but she had actually talked about something else which is not at all connected with the calamity, cyclone damage. She has not talked on these.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Kindly conclude.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : They have requested for Rs. 666 crores, but it is not a correct demand. You just appoint another expert commitee to find out the real extent of the damage. Last year the damage was of the order of Rs. 540 crores. This year it is more than Rs. 1,000 crores. Nearly, Rs. 1,600 crores of damage has been caused because of the cyclones and rains in the last two years. How much did the Central Government help last year ? Only Rs. 14.65 crores or something like that was given. Rs. 50 crores was advanced. That means not a single paisa had been acutally given as financial aid by the Central Government. The same thing should not be continued this year. Therefore, I request through you, Sir, that a considerable amount should be given. At least 90 per cent of the damage caused should be actually compensated by the Central Government. With these words I conclude. I am expecting some sort of an assurance from the Hon. Minister.

चौधरी हरि सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, तमिलनाडु और पांडिचेरी के बहुत बड़े हिस्से में प्रलयंकारी तूफान और भारी वर्षा से कितनी जनहानि हुई, सम्पत्ति और फसलों का, निवास स्थानों का नाश हुआ इसका अंदाजा लगाना बड़ा मुश्किल है हालांकि मुझको खुशी है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के मंत्री जो वहां गये, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी वहां का सर्वे किया और केन्द्रीय सरकार की टीम भी सारे नुकसान को देखने के लिए और दूसरी चीजों का इंतजाम करने के सिलसिले में वहां पर पहुंची। ये सारी चीजें हुईं। लेकिन जितना भारी नुकसान हुआ उसके मुताबिक धन की भरपाई नहीं हो पाई है मुझे अहसास है इस बात का। मुझको इस बात का भी अहसास है कि जिन लोगों के पास जमीन का रिकार्ड, मकान का रिकार्ड होता है तथा कल-कारखाने का, झुग्गी-झोंपड़ियों का, जमीन का ब्यौरा और रेवेन्यू रेकार्ड उनका होता है। उनको तो कुछ न कुछ

सहायता मिल जाती है, लेकिन आप बड़े शहरों में देखेंगे, समुद्र के किनारे, दरिया के किनारे हजारों-लाखों की तादाद में ऐसे लोग होते हैं जो अन-अथोराइज्ड तौर पर दिल्ली में भी हर जगह देखेंगे शैंटी टाउन बन जाते हैं, वह भी बर्बाद हो जाते हैं। बड़ी मेहनत के बाद मजदूरी करके यानी क्या-क्या करके अपने परिवार बनाते हैं, झोंपड़ी बनाते हैं, उसमें भी उनके साथ सामान होता है। उनके दिन-प्रति-दिन का जो सामान जोड़ा जाता है वह बड़ी मेहनत के बाद कितने सालों के बाद जोड़ा जाता है। लेकिन जब रिलीफ बंटने में आती है, जब आर्थिक सहायता का सवाल आता है, कंपेसेशन का सवाल आता है तो जो रेवेन्यू रेकार्ड है जो एस्टैब्लिशड लोग हैं, ऐसे घराने हैं उनको तो रिलीफ मिल जाती है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी ने उनका भी सर्वे करवाया था? आज इस तरह के जो शैंटी टाउन जो समुद्र के किनारे बसे हुए हैं और शहर में बसे हुए थे, उनको भी कोई रिलीफ दी गई थी और वे कितने घर और कितने परिवार के लोग थे उनको क्या रिलीफ दी गई पर हेड के हिसाब से कितना रुपया दिया गया? अगर नहीं दिया गया है तो सरकार क्या उनका जायजा लेकर फिर से तुलना करके उनको आर्थिक सहायता देगी? यह मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to completely associate myself with what Mr. Viduthalai Virumbi has said. I endorse what he has said. I would first like to say that the statement is completely inadequate. It does not reflect the true picture of the situation in the State of Tamil Nadu where the situation is extremely dismal and pathetic. The people are undergoing such suffering that it cannot be even explained or imagined over here. Without taking the time of the House by repeating what was already said, I want to seek a specific clarification from the hon. Minister. He himself has said in his statement that coastal districts are cyclone-prone. Every year there occur many cyclones, out of which at least two or three are severe cyclones. in 1992 there was a severe cyclone for which some amount was given from the Calamity Relief Fund. Again only two days ago, as you are aware, there was another cyclone. What are the precautionary measures taken by the Government ? What is the kind of weather forecasting that was taken ? What is it that the Central Government and the State Government are doing ? Are they not aware that cyclones like this will hit coastal areas ? What were the weather forecasting measures undertaken by the State Government in association with the Department of Meteorology to save the lives of people in coastal areas ? I can understand in a natural calamity like a cyclone, we cannot protect our crops, we cannot cover the crops, we cannot save them. There will be damage. But why should there be loss of human lives ? At least people can be evacuated from the low lying areas. We should be able to have some idea of the severity of the place where cyclones would strike so that there will be no loss of life. I think it is a shame that year after year we come before this forum and talk about loss of human lives. Therefore, I would like to seek specific in formation from the hon. Minister, what steps have been taken for weather forecsting in order to specifically prevent loss of human life.

Again the Minister has said in his statement specifically about the State of Pondicherry. I would like to point out, because this is a matter that saddens me deeply, the hon. Minister in his statement has said that because of the precautionary measures taken by the Pondicherry administration, evacuation of people to safer places could be undertaken. And there was no loss of human life. This is an extremely praiseworthy step taken by the Government of Pondicherry. I think it should have been emulated. Why is it that the Government of Tamil Nadu did not take such measures ? While I admire what the Government of Pondicherry has done, what is saddening is that the Government of Tamil Nadu has not taken

any steps to save human lives. It is most unfortunate that we have lost 238 precious human lives. If human lives are cheaper in Tamil Nadu, it is most unfortunate. These precautionary measures were not taken in Tamil Nadu. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps were taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to prevent the loss of human lives ?

Sir, another thing I want to point out is we ourselves know from the State Government release, from whatever little knowledge they had from the aerial survey conducted by them. 230 people lost their lives. How did it happen ? Is it due to the fact that the State Government did not provide the correct information ? You have mentioned in your statement that only 111 people lost their lives and only one lac huts were destroyed. What kind of relief can be we possibly expect ? It shows only a haphazard attitude on the part of the State Government. They did not even bring forth the correct figure. They did not give to the Central Government the exact picture of the damage that has occurred in the State. We cannot hope to get any relief from the Central Government if the State Government do not supply the exact information.

Thirdly, the Minister has said that Rs. 39 crores had been released to the State Government last year. Mr. H. Hanumanthappa, who spoke before me, said and I agree with him that because there is a different party in power in the State of Tamil Nadu, the people should not be discriminated against. I agree with him. I don't think that any discrimination has taken place. This is cutting across party lines. We all care for the people of our State. I don't think any discrimination will ever be done by the Central Government. The point is, we are over here in the Council of States. We are pointing out the lacunae in the relief that is administered by the Central Government. All that they can do is to give the money. The Central Government gave Rs. 39 crores last year. But have you monitored what the State Government has done with this money ? Have you got any idea how the State Government has used it ? How was it that they were not able to prevent it ? Whatever damage occurred in the last cyclone, the worse damage has occurred in this cyclone. What has the State Government done with the 39 crores of rupees ? How did they use it ? There is no doubt that the people are suffering. People have lost their huts, they have lost their livelihood, they have lost their standing crops. We have to give them immediate relief. But the grautitous relief all the time is a populist measure. What are the particular measures that the Government is going to take ? Are we going to strengthen the coastal areas so that there are no tidal waves, so that there are no breaches ? Are we going to build cyclone shelters so that there is no loss of human life ? Without wasting any time, it is absolutely vital for the Central Government to monitor the whole thing. We want more than Rs. 1,000/- crores, as was pointed out by Shri Virumbi. You gave Rs. 39 crores last year and Rs. 14 crores this year. But even that is not properly used by the State Government. It is of no use at all. And the people will continue to suffer and we will continue to take aerial surveys.

Finally, the hon. Minister said in paragraph 10 that a cyclone emergency project has been submitted. We have requested the World Bank for assistance for the cyclone emergency project. Has the Government of Tamil Nadu submitted any plan in this regard ? If it is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh, I don't see any reason why it cannot be implemented in Tamil Nadu. I would like the hon. Minister to reply whether or not the Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted a plan in this regard and what the reservations are that the World Bank has ? If it is possible to implement it in Andhra Pradesh, it should be possible to implement it in Tamil Nadu also. I would like the Minister to explain what the reservations are and whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has actually done its duty.

Finally, I would like to add a few words to what Mr. Virumbi has said. Even though the cyclone took place on 4th December and heavy rains took place recently in the last two days, still the situation is pathetic. People are suffering gravely. The State Government has dismally failed in relief measures. Therefore, I request that we should not abandon the people of Tamil Nadu to the fate of being administered by the State Government alone. We are now in the Council of States. I think the Central Government has to initiate meausres to see that relief is taken to the people of the State and at least monitor what the State Government is doing. Because of the State Government's dismal performance, the Central Government cannot abdicate its responsibility towards the people of Tamil Nadu. I would like the Minister to tell us specifically what steps he is going to take.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, while associating myself with the sentiments expressed by my friends from Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, I don't want to repeat what my friends have said. I want to confine myself to one aspect. This statement refers to the fact that on an average, about five or six tropical cyclones take place in the Bay of Bengal every year and Mr. Narayanasamy also mentioned that this statement does not refer to the fact that the day before yesterday, that is, on Sunday, there was a cyclone and that has not been included in the statement. Yesterday, when I was watching the TV, I heard a forecast in the news that yesterday evening or today there would be another cyclone. According to what was shown in the TV news. It indicates that this is a cyclone-prone area. As far as these districts are concerned, every year there used to be a cyclone. The question is : What is the permanent measure that is being thought of ? Are you now planning in terms of having an area insurance scheme ? That is something like a permanent measure. I am not asking whether the amount is given immediately or not; this is a different question which has been already referred to. There should be a permanent arrangement because it happens to be a cyclone-prone area. The Central Government should, therefore, take some special action. I request the hon. Minister to make some specific assurance on this score (ends).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Sir, at the outset, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my colleagues from Tamil Nadu and Poudicherry. My heart goes out to the people of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, but, Sir, I have a serious objection to this statement. In the third para, the Minister said, "The monsoon which accompanied the cyclonic storm caused heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry also." Sir, except these words, there is absolutely nothing about Andhra Pradesh in the statement. I do not know whether it has come to the knowledge of the Minister that in the cyclone and flood which occured in the first week of December, 1993. Nellore and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh have also been heavily damaged and thousands of acres of paddy fields were submerged the people suffered a heavy loss in cash crops like tobacco, cotton, mirchi and other things. But there is absolutely nothing in this statement. It is my very, very serious objection. I do not know how it missed the notice of the Minister.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh) : He will make a separate statement tomorrow.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Sir, I am really sorry to say that the calamity had taken place in the first week of December but we are having this statement now in the third week of December. It took nearly three weeks for the Government to come before the House with a statement like this. This is also a very, very unfortunate situation and I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that at least in future they should unmediately come and share their views with the House. So much timegap should not be there.

Sir, there is another thing. The Central Team had gone to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. That is what is written in the statement. Have they visited Andhra Pradesh also ? Have they gone to the places which are affected by the cyclone and flood ? There is nothing in the statement as regards Andhra Pradesh.

Another thing is, the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry have taken up immediate relief measures. I am totally in agreement with it but there is no such relief operation in Andhra Pradesh. Have they received any information from the Andhra Pradesh Government ? Have the Andhra Pradesh Government gone to the rescue of the people affected by this cyclone and flood in Nellore and Prakasam districts ? There is absolutely nothing about them. I would like to know whether he has received any information from the Andhra Pradesh Government. That is one thing. Another thing is about the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The Minister himself has mentioned it in the statement that every year about 5-6 tropical cyclones occur either in the Arabian Sea or in the Bay of Bengal affecting the coastal districts badly. Sir, this is a very vast country. Our climate is also totally different. It varies from one place to another. Natural calamities occur every year in one or the other part of the country.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would think in terms of providing a permanent machinery to meet natural calamities whenever they occur in any part of the country instead of relying upon the Calamity Relief Fund which was created by the Ninth Finance Commission. This Fund is totally inadequate. We have raised this issue a number of times in this House. The Fund is very limited. Nobody knows the damages which would be caused by natural calamities. Therefore, the funds given by the Central Government, which are always limited, are always inadequate to meet the damages caused by natural calamities. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would think in terms of providing a permanent mechanism. Let the Planning Commission be seized of the matter. Let the Planning Commission, while drawing the plans, either the State plans or the Central plan, provide some amount, a permanent amount, for calamity relief. If that kind of an arrangement is made, then there will be no shortage of funds for providing relief to the people who sustain heavy damages due to natural calamities.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह समुद्री तूफान और भारी वर्षा से जो जानमाल की हानि हुई है, उसका मुझे बड़ा दुख और अफसोस है और मैं प्रारम्भ में सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूं कि प्रभावित परिवार और व्यक्तियों को अधिक से अधिक राहत दिलानी चाहिए। लेकिन कुछ मित्रों ने पहले ही सुझाव दिए हैं। मेरी आदत यह नहीं है कि म टिप्पणी करूं, लेकिन उस तरफ के मित्र आजादी आने से आज तक दो-ढाई साल के अन्तराल को छोड़कर के केन्द्र में सत्ता में रहे हैं और आज भी केन्द्र में सत्ता में हैं। पाण्डिचेरी और तमिलनाडु में भी आपके सहयोग से आज सरकार चल रही हैं तथा काफी दिनों तक वहां सरकारें चली हैं। जैसा बयान के पैरा-2 में आपने कहा है--"सदस्यों को मालूम ही है, भारत के पूर्वी और पश्चिमी समुद्र तटों पर बंगाल की खाड़ी तथा अरब सागर में उठने वाले ट्रापिकल समुद्री तूफानों का खतरा बहुत अधिक बना रहता है। हर साल औसतन करीब 5-6 ट्रापिकल तूफान बंगाल की खाड़ी तथा अरब सागर में उठते हैं जिनमें से 2-3 गंभीर रूप धारण कर लेते हैं।"

तो जब आप यह जानते हैं और मानते हैं तो 40 सालों से आप क्या करते रहे हैं? क्या आपकी स्वयं की यह गलती नहीं है? क्या आपके कारण यह जानमाल की हानि नहीं होती है? आप जिस स्थाई तौर-तरीके को अपनाने की बात आज कर रहे हैं, 40 सालों से आप क्यों सो रहे थे? क्या आप इसके जिम्मेदार नहीं हैं? -(घंटी)- जैसे शहरों में सायरन बजते हैं जब कोई हमला होता है या खतरा होता है। तो जब हर साल यह बात होती है तो जो हमारा समुद्री तूफान का इलाका है, क्या गांव-गांव में आपने सायरन लगाए हैं और जब यह आभास होता है, तूफान उठता है तो क्या

आप उन सायरनों को बजाते हैं, ताकि उसको सुनकर के लोग, आगाह होकर के वहां से छोड़कर चले जाएं ? अगर आपने सायरन नहीं लगाए तो क्या इसकी जिम्मेदारी आपकी नहीं है ? क्या आपके कारण यह जानमाल की हानि नहीं हुई है ।

तीसरा, मेरा स्पष्टीकरण और है माननीय, जब दो तारीख को यह तूफान उठा तो आपने क्या प्रिवेंटिव मेजर्स लिए ? क्या लोगों को आपने कहा कि तूफान आने वाला है, आप चले जाइए घरों को छोड़ करके ? इससे कम से कम लोगों की जान तो बच जाती और लोग नहीं मरें । आपने यह भी कहा कि नवम्बर में दबाव बन गया था और भारी वर्षा हुई थी, तो एक महीने से आप क्यों सो रहे थे । (समय की घंटी) मंत्री जी, मुझे आपसे एक बात पूछनी है आपने कहा है कि हमने पैसे की सिफारिश की है (समय की घंटी) माननीय, मैं तो बहुत कम समय लेता हूं, आप जितना लेते हैं उसका आठवां हिस्सा ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : No, no. You have to ask only questions.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : आपने पैरा–8 में कहा है कि हमने 14.625 करोड़ रुपए की अग्रिम निर्मुक्ति की सिफारिश की है। सिफारिश करना अलग बात है। चार तारीख को तूफान आया 21 तारीख को बयान दे रहे हैं। सिफारिश तो की लेकिन मिला कितना पैसा तुरन्त रिलीज हुआ या नहीं और पैसा बंटा या नहीं बंटा तो यह जिम्मेदारी किस की है । गलती किसकी है। आपने पांडिचेरी के लिए भी किया। सही बात यह है कि क्षमा किजिए आप केवल घड़ियाली आंसू बहाते हैं। यहां जब समस्याएं लगातार बनी हुई हैं और हर साल इसका खतरा बना रहता है तो उसका निदान आप क्यों नहीं करते ? आप कृपया इस सदन में बताएं कि क्या स्थाई उपाय आपने किए हैं अगर नहीं किए है तो कब तक करेंगे। सायरन आपने लगाए हैं या नहीं लगाए हैं अगर नहीं लगाए है तो कब तक लगाएंगे जो धनराशि आपने देने की सिफारिश की है वह मिली है या नहीं मिली, यही मुझे पूछना है आपसे .... (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Mr. Gautam, you have to conclude. You have taken more than 5 minutes. ....(*Interruptions*)....

DR. YELAMANSHILI SIVAJI : Sir, Mr. Padmanabham mentioned about the calamity in Andhra Pradesh. This statement specifically refers to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. I am sure the Minister is going to come with another statement in regard to Andhra Pradesh tomorrow. Sir, this is nothing but a natural feature. It is an annual feature and it is a perennial problem in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh. The problem is not with floods alone. In these States, drought situation follows floods. This is a fact of Life. Some or scare rains or drought, have become a difficult to meet their drinking-water requirements. The hon. Minister mentioned about the Calamity Relief Fund....(*Interruptions*).... The Calamity Relief Fund for this year has been exhausted long back. Some advance amount has been extented by the Central Government. Several Members have mentioned that natural calanities, whether floods or heavy rains or scarce rains or drought, have become a regular feature in some parts of the country. Every year about one-third of the population is affected. This is no longer a regional problem and it is not reasonable to expect the State Governments to meet their requirements from their own coffers. One-third of the population is affected every year. Let this be treated as a national calamity. Let the entire nation come to the rescue of those affected, whether it be because of an earthquake in Maharashtra or drought in Rajasthan or because of floods in Tamil Nadu. Let the whole nation bear the burden. Once we have a Calamity Relief Fund, it will not be necessary for a Central team to go there and assess the damage. After all, funds are earmarked

for that year and they are releasing it. It is a fact that every State Government is interested in getting more and more funds. If you go through the figures stipulated by the State Governments, you will find that there is a wide gap between what has been demanded and what has been allocated by the Central Government. There is a stipulation which says that they should exhaust the fund by 31st of March. Again the drama begins. The State Finance Minister visits Delhi and runs from pillar to post for an extension of time for utilising the sanctioned amount. It is a fact that in the present political situation, different parties rule in different States. A completely different party may be ruling at the Centre. So, whether it is the Congress party or some other party, there will be an Opposition party and they start criticising that the State Government is inflating the figures and that they are not spending the money properly and that they are misusing it. Unnecessary friction is created between the Centre and the State which endangers the federal structure of the country. All these unnecessary and avoidable frictions between the Centre and the States in the allocation of funds, inflating of figures, utilisation, etc., should be avoided. Let the Centre take it as a national calamity and the Government must see to it that something substantial is done.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Kindly conclude, Dr. Sivaji.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : One minute. Regarding the permanent measures for relief in the coastal areas, let there be permanent cyclone shelters along these areas so that whenever such a calamity occurs, people may take shelter there. Necessary infrastructure must be developed there. As far as the Cyclone Emergency Reconstruction Programme (CERP) is concerned, I do not know whether the proposal submitted by the State Government is fool-proof, without any lacuna or gaps. I wish the State Government submits the proposal with all necessary documentary and other information, and the World Bank comes forward....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Okay.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : I am concluding, Sir. It concerns your State.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : But time is also a factor.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Money is more important.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : For me, now, time is important.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : I would also like to say that the Centre should not withhold the money sanctioned by the World Bank for this purpose. Let the entire amount go to the States concerned for cyclone relief works. In regard to Andhra Pradesh, I would like to mention some aspects when the Minister issues a statement tomorrow. As regards the insurance scheme, it is only land insurance that is available for the agricultural farmers and not crop insurance. So, a comprehensive crop insurance scheme, more so in those areas which are prone to natural clamities like floods, droughts, etc., should be evolved and it should be implemented throughout the country.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V NARAYANASAMY) : You have to take only two minutes.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I know that my time is limited and counted. Already, our Members have spoken on it and I don't want to take much time. But, it pains me a lot to find that the statement, as they call it, is devoid of all the particulars which are required of it. The Minister of Agriculture says that at the behest of the Prime Minister, he went and visited the places. So, it was only a visit. He did not take

any Central team with him which he is supposed to have done. A Central team should have assessed the details of loss, etc. The State Government may say so many things. A Central team must assess the extent of loss sustained by the State in this regard and you must put it in black and white. Then, you have also not mentioned as to what the requirements of the State Government are. There is absolutely no mention about it. You simply say, "I went there and visited certain places." This will not serve any purpose at all. It is just that as a ritual the Government has made this statement. It is a mere ritual on paper when you say that you shed tears and that you help the people. As regards the assessment of damages, as my friend, Mr. Vidulhalai Virumbi, has submitted, a team had gone there and it estimated that a sum of nearly Rs. 4,000 crores is required. Whatever the Central Government has given by way of relief has been towards last year's calamity. This year, the calamity has occurred in two phases; one in November and the other in December. Within two months, both Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu have been completely dislocated. The people have suffered a lot and they are still suffering. I would request that the Central Government can even send a team —it is not too late—or an expert committee immediately to assess the extent of damages suffered by the people and sanction money for undertaking relief works. There is no point in saying that the State Government had sanctioned Rs. 23 crores. There is a Tamil proverb that a man gave roasted popcorn to an elephant which was hungry. That is how your statement is. Therefore, it is not proper on the part of the Central Government to say that the State Government, has given so much and things like that. I don't want to say anything about the State Government because there is no State Government at all as it is. The Central Government only must take into consideration the sufferings of the people. The people in Tamil Nadu are almost homeless. The people have lost their cattle. Almost all the crops in Thanjavur district, which is the granary of Tamil Nadu, have been damaged and in the Karaikal area also, all the crops have been washed away. Therefore, the assessment must come from the Central Team. You have to see that the amount that is to be spent is delivered to the proper persons who are actually suffering. you must have members from all the parties to assist the authorities in this work. Immediate relief should be provided. The Central Government should send a team immediately and assess the damages. You must also take far-sighted measures, as our friends have suggested, to see that such calamities do not do much damage. No prior intimation has been given to the people. That is what we gather becase we are sitting here two thousand kilometres away. You must also open centres to accommodate people and you must try to see that in such places the lives of people are not lost. The Government must act quickly and must react to the suggestions I have made. I want an assurance from the Minister in this connection and I would like to know what he is going to do. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ASHIS SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, I stand here not to paint a colourable canvas by painting out which political party is at the Centre or in the States and there is no question of any apportionment of blame. But I question, I blame, I condemn, the administration, whether at the Centre or in the State, which has betrayed callous indifference and negligence towards the lives and properties of the people. That is what has happened. Sir, 110 people have died and 1,61,000 huts have been damaged. It is a statement of fact. What do they do ? A sum of Rs. 500|- has been sanctioned as gratuitous relief ! You know, Sir, and all the Members know what this five hundred rupees means for the reconstruction of a hut and that also in a cyclone-affected area where there will be another cyclone and the huts will be washed away. What preventive measures have been taken ? We have got technological developments. Everyday we are taking satellite pictures about the probability of there being a cyclone or tidal waves. Are they only for exhibition on the TV or they have got a

tual sense ? Does the Government want to take note of them and caution people and warn them and protect them in advance so that this type of calamities do not affect them much and we may not have to talk about how much money has to be spent and on whom ? I feel ashamed that these things have been done in this callous fashion. Precautionary measures have not been taken. Suggestions have been given and I do not want to give anything more now. I am not an engineers or a technician. But I am a representative of the people, the common people, who are suffering and it is not being attended to and this is the criminal liability of this Government in this matter.

Money we do not have. A project is there and it has to be approved by the World Bank. The World Bank has got certain reservations. A project is to be undertaken in the month of November or December, 1992 or 1993, and it requires the approval of the World Bank and only then would we be able to move with the project ! Have we lost our sense of dignity and self-respect ? Is it not possible to raise funds within the country to meet the requirements of this type of calamities ? Share prices are going up and Sensex is going up. Our Ministers, our Finance Minister, the Prime Minister and the entire retinue of Ministers are talking about economy. But where is the money ? We cannot have money for such purposes ? We have money only for speculative purposes ? You do not have money to protect the people and see that proper rehabilitation of the people affected by the cyclone and other things is done ? Are you to be guided by the World Bank in everything ? It has been stated here—I want a clarification from the Minister myself—that whatever project is to the undertaken matter will be in the light of the observations of the World Bank ; In what a naked way have we sold ourselves, our conscience, our living to the World Bank ? The World Bank is the only source for everything that is happening in our country. So, I want a clarification from the Minister. With this state of affairs, still as a Minister, as a Government, you have got a responsibility towards the people in their difficulties and hardships. It is only for paper work that you have come out with a statement. I want a clear statement from the Minister here and from the entire Government. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY (Orissa) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the eastern coastal States such as Bengal, Orissa, Andhra, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry are affected by the natural calamities every year. So, these States should not be dealt with like other States in respect of Natural Calamities Fund. These States should be given more funds for this purpose.

Secondly, Sir, there is nothing in the statement as to what is the casualty of livestock. Nothing has been stated here.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Mr. Minister, he talks of the casualty of livestock.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Nothing has been stated about livestock.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : That is missing.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Sir, only Rs. 500 is given for this. Nowadays, a bull or a buffalo costs more than Rs. 10,000. And how will they plough their fields to grow their crops if there be no livestock with them ? So, more funds should be given to purchase livestock. If not, longterm loans, without interest, should be given to purchase livestock That is what I wanted to say.

Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Now, the hon. Minister to reply.

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी मैं माननीय सदस्यों का आभारी हूं कि मेरे बयान से माननीय सदस्यों ने बहुत से मुद्दे स्पष्टीकरण के रूप में मांगे हैं ।

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : It is about South. It should be answered in English.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : No, no. Let him reply in any language he likes.

श्री अरविन्द नेताम : सबसे पहले तो जो सबसे बड़ी शिकायत है वह कलेमिटिज रिलीफ फण्ड की है। जैसा श्री पद्मनाभम जी ने कहा नाइन्थ फाइनेन्स कमीशन ने इस मामले को एडोप्ट किया था जिससे सभी राज्य और केन्द्रीय सरकार सहमत थीं। चूंकि एक फार्मूला राज्य सरकारों और केन्द्रीय सरकार के बीच में नाइन्थ फाईनेन्स कमीशन ने निकाला है उसके तहत ही जो कुछ भी मदद होनी है मेरे मंत्रालय से वह हो रही है।

यह कोई पहला अवसर नहीं है कि हम ऐसी जो नेचुरल कलेमिटी है उस पर चर्चा कर रहे हों। आप सभी विद्वान सदस्य इस बात से परिचित है कि जो फार्मूला है जो सिस्टम है मदद करने का वह आप सब जानते हैं अब नाइन्थ फाईनेन्स कमीशन ने जो फार्मूला बनाया था चूंकि अब दसवां फाईनेन्स कमीशन एक्जीसटेंस में है तो इस मामले में राज्य सरकारें अवश्य ही टेन्थ फाईनेन्स कमीशन के सामने इस बात को रखेंगी कि क्या यह फार्मूला उचित है या नहीं है या जितनी मदद मिलनी चाहिए जैसी दिक्कतें हैं, तो टेन्थ फाईनेन्स कमीशन में इस बात पर निश्चय ही विचार होगा। मैं इस बात को स्पष्ट कर देना चाहता हूं कि जो भी हम कृषि मंत्रालय से मदद दे रहे हैं वह नेचुरल कलेमिटीज रिलीफ फण्ड के माध्यम से दे रहे हैं। इसमें तमिलनाडु और पांडिचेरी का जो नुक्सान हुआ हैं इसमें कोई शक नहीं कि जान और माल का काफी नुक्सान हुआ हैं। हमारे मंत्री डा. बलराम जाखड़ जी वहां गये, अपनी टीम के साथ गये सेन्ट्रल टीम के साथ गये और एरियल सर्वे भी किया। सबसे पहले तो श्री पद्मनाभम जी का और डा. शिवाजी का जवाब देना चाहूंगा।

स्टेटमेंट में मैंने आंध्र प्रदेश का जरूर जिक्र किया है पर मैं यह बात बताना चाहूंगा कि मां सरकार की तरफ से कोई रिपोर्ट भारत सरकार को नहीं मिली है, हमारे मंत्रालय को नहीं मिली है। अगर फ्लड में हुई क्षति के बारे में भारत सरकार या हमारे मंत्रालय को कोई रिपोर्ट मिलेगी तो निश्चितरूप से उस संबंध में जो भी कार्यवाही नियमों के तहत होगी वह जरूर करेंगे। इसलिये क्योंकि राज्य सरकार से कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं मिली है इसलिये इस पर डिटेल से, विस्तार से कोई चर्चा नहीं हो पायी।

तमिलनाडु में यह बात सही है कि राज्य का कैलेमिटीज रिलीफ फंड करीब 39 करोड़ का है। इसमें गत वर्ष भी और इस वर्ष भी पूरे इन्स्टालमेंट राज्य सरकार को दिये गये हैं। पर जैसा मैंने कहा यह तो फिक्स फार्मूला है और नुकसान बहुत हुआ है। तमिलनाडु सरकार ने करीब 666 करोड़ रुपये की मदद मांगी है, जो नुकसान हुआ है उसको पूरा करने के लिये। जो फार्मूला बना है, उस हिसाब से हमें केवल 14 करोड़ इस साल देना था। इस फाइनेंसियल इयर की बकाया दो इन्स्टालमेंट, अगले साल रिलीज करने वाले हैं। इस प्रकार से जो फार्मूला है उसके अनुसार हम मदद करने की स्थिति में हैं। सभी राज्य सरकारों के साथ ऐसा है। ऐसा केवल तमिलनाडु और पांडिचेरी के साथ नहीं है, बल्कि सभी राज्यों के साथ है। सदस्यों ने कहा कि और क्या मदद कर सकते हैं। जैसे, आप जानते हैं कि सेंटर सेक्टर और सेन्ट्रली स्पांसर्ड स्कीमें बहुत सी है। अगर राज्य सरकारें उन स्कीमों को भेजें तो निश्चित ही विभिन्न मंत्रालयों को हम जरूर इस बात की सिफारिश करेंगे और वे मंत्रालय देखेंगे कि सेंटर सेक्टर और सेन्ट्रल स्पासर्ड स्कीमों के तहत कितनी मदद हो सकती है। राज्य सरकारें, चाहे तमिलनाडु हो, चाहे पांडिचेरी हों, उनको यह देना चाहिये और हम इस बात की सिफारिश कर सकते हैं। अगर राज्य सरकारें उन स्कीमों के तहत यह भेजेंगे तो निश्चित रूप से हम दूसरे मंत्रालयों को सिफारिश कर सकेंगे। तो यह सीआरएफ के अलावा जो मदद देने की स्कीमें हैं, उनके बारे में मैं कह रहा हूं।

बहुत से मेंबरों ने कहा कि जो टीम गयी थी, जो सेंटर से टीम गयी थी, उसकी रिपोर्ट का क्या हुआ। उसकी रिपोर्ट हमें मंत्रालय में कल ही प्राप्त हुई है। इसलिये अभी वह विचाराधीन

है। अभी उसके बारे में डिटेल्ड, विस्तार से बताने की स्थिति में मैं नहीं हूं।

जहां तक साइक्लोन के बारे में वार्निंग की बात कही गयी है तो कोस्टल एरियाज में करीब करीब दस साइक्लोन स्टेशन हैं जिनमें साइक्लोन की सूचना पहले से दी जाती है। यह जो पिछला साइक्लोन हुआ है, उसके बारे में तमिलनाडु में करीब 48 घंटे पहले सूचना दी गयी थी और राज्य सरकार ने जितना हो सका, उस संबंध में तैयारी की। इसी प्रकार से पांडिचेरी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने भी अपने हिसाब से पूरी तैयारी की। जितना हो सकता था किया। ऐसा नहीं हो सकता कि केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से जो सूचना दी जाती है, खास करके साइक्लोन की वार्निंग के बारे में वह पूरी न हो। इस संबंध में पूर्व सूचना दी जाती है और राज्य सरकारों को कहा जाता है कि वे इस संबंध में तमाम कदम उठायें। इस बात से इसकी पुष्टि होती है कि वार्निंग के पश्चात् पांडिचेरी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने मुस्तैदी के साथ यह कार्य किया। इसलिये वहां पर जन की कम हानि हुई, धन की तो बहुत हुई। इसी प्रकार प्रकार से तमिलनाडु और दूसरे इलाकों में साइक्लोन की वार्निंग का सिस्टम है, इसमें कोई संदेह की बात नहीं है।

जयंती जी ने कहा कि जो रिलीफ फंड दिया जाता है क्या उसका हिसाब-किताब लिया जाता है या नहीं। आमतौर से यह प्रथा नहीं है, परम्परा नहीं है कि हम उनसे हिसाब मांगें और कई राज्य सरकारों ने कोई रिपोर्ट, रिलीफ फंड के एक्सपेंडीचर के बारे में अभी तक नहीं दी है। यह परम्परा है, कन्वेंशन है। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, पांडिचेरी के बारे में विशेष तौर से आपने कहा है। पांडिचेरी गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से कुछ घोषणाएं हुई हैं। उसमें फूड सब्सिडी के बारे में वहां की एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने की है और कोकोनट ट्रीज जो डेमेज हुए है उनके कम्पनसेशन के बारे में कुछ मदद देने की घोषणा की है तथा रिकंस्ट्रक्शन के लिए मदद देने की बात पांडिचेरी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने कही है। यह बात सही है कि यूनियन टेरीटरीज हमारे केलेमिटी रिलीफ फण्ड के दायरे में आती नहीं है। इस संबंध में जो नोडल मिनिस्ट्री है वह है होम मिनिस्ट्री। होम मिनिस्ट्री इसके लिए जिम्मेदार है। इसलिए हमने गृह मंत्रालय को इस बात को कहा है और सिफारिश किया है। जो दो करोड़ रुपये की मदद देने की बात है, अगर कहीं दसवें फाइनेंस कमीशन में इस संबंध में कोई चर्चा हो तो निश्चित रूप से चर्चा होनी चाहिये कि इसमें यूनियन टेरीटरीज को शामिल किया जाए या नहीं किया जाए। मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि दसव फाइनेंस कमीशन में यूनियन टेरीटरीज इस बात को उठायेंगी ताकि इसमें विस्तार से चर्चा हो कर के एक निश्चित निर्णय पर पहुंच पाएं।

इसके अलावा माननीय सदस्यों द्वारा डेमेज की डिटेल के बारे में कहा गया। चूंकि सेंट्रल टीम की रिपोर्ट अभी कल ही मिली है इसलिए मैं इस स्थिति में नहीं हूं कि उसकी डिटेल्ज आपके सामने रख सकूं। जैसे कि मैं पूर्व में कह चुका हूं कि तमिलनाडु ने 666 करोड़ का डिमांड किया है, इसी प्रकार से पांडिचेरी ने करीब 46 करोड़ का डिमांड किया है। यह जो डेमेज है यह राज्य सरकार के सर्वे के अनुसार है। सेंट्रल स्टडी टीम जो गई हुई थी उसकी विस्तृत रिपोर्ट और जानकारी हासिल करने के बाद ही मालूम हो सकता है। इस प्रकार से मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि माननीय सदस्यों को स्पष्टीकरण देने की मैंने प्रयास किया है। जो भी भारत सरकार के दायरे के तहत मदद करने की है, सेंट्रल केलेमिटी रिलीफ फण्ड के तहत है, उसी के दायरे में हम मदद देने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। धन्यवाद।
(व्यवधान)

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम आपका बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद आप जिस तरह से जवाब देते हैं..
(व्यवधान)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Sir, I would like to seek just one clarification from the hon. Minister. I would like to make one point clear. The hon. Minister, while replying, has taken shelter under the Tenth Finance Commission. Sir, there are various ways of coming to the assistance of the States. For example, we have the Plan grants and Plan allocations from the Planning Commission. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister. The question of the Tenth Finance Commission would be a later

stage. It is a different thing whether the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission are going to change the present system of C.R.F. allocation or not. I would like to know from the hon. Minister right now, in view of the calamity that had taken place in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, would he come to the assistance of the State Governments through Plan targets and Plan allocations ? This is the point which I would like the Minister to answer. As a matter of fact, this was the point raised by me earlier.

Another point is I would like to know whether the Central team which visited Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry visited Andhra Pradesh also, i.e. the two districts in Andhra Pradesh, Nellore and Prakasam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : He has said that the report has not come.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : These are the two points I would like the hon. Minister to clarify.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Sir, as far as the question of Plan grants is concerned, there is no such provision in regard to natural calamities. As I said, there are Centrally-sponsored schemes. If the State Governments forward such schemes to our Ministry, we would recommend those schemes to the various Ministries. This is the way out for helping the State Governments.

In regard to the Central team's visit, as I said, there is no report from the State Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Therefore, the Central team has not gone.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : I would like to know—whether there was a report or not—whether the Central team which visited Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry also visited Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : If the State Government sends a report, we will certainly send a Central team.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : There was a specific question by Shri Ashis Sen as to why you should go to the World Bank for assistance, why not raise the funds within your own State.

SHRI ASHIS SEN : My point is, even for conducting your relief operations you require the approval of the World Bank. That is my point. The other point you have already made.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : He was asking, "Why do you go to the World Bank ?"

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : As you know, there is a financial constraint. The funds available for such natural calamities are not sufficient. That formula is there. So, a time has come to go to the World Bank to meet the situation created by this natural calamity.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : The House is adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at fortysix minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 22nd December, 1993.

MGIPRRND—212-4 RSS/94—Date 19-9-1